

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05
SP-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 TRSE-00 AID-05
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8376

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4925

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, VE

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: CARACAS 6136

1. DISCUSSION TO WHICH REFTEL NO DOUBT REFERS TOOK PLACE
BETWEEN VENEZUELAN PERMANENT REP AMB CASTELLANOS
AND HOROWITZ ON JUNE 14 AT END OF DINNER HOSTED BY ITALIAN
DELEGATE FOR VISITING ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY OF
STATE.

2. BACKGROUND OF DISCUSSION WAS THAT VENEZUELA HAS BEEN
UNHELPFUL IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS IN CONTRAST TO FORTHCOMING
ATTITUDES EXPRESSED TO HOROWITZ DURING HIS VISIT TO CARACAS.
ON AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17 AFFECTING RESOLUTIONS OF CON-
DEMNATIONS WITHOUT INVESTIGATION VENEZUELA HAD

ABSTAINED (UNDER ILO QUORUM RULE A TACTIC FOR DEFEATING
A MEASURE) ON KEY QUESTION OF ASSIGNING SUBJECT TO STANDING
ORDERS COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE. ON SAME SUBJECT WE ARE
AWARE THAT LATIN AMERICAN CAUCUS VENEZUELA HAS BEEN
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AMONG COUNTRIES FAVORING PREVENTION OF ACTION ON
ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT BY HAVING IT JOINED WITH
UNTRACTABLE STRUCTURE QUESTIONS IN PACKAGE WHICH WOULD
INSURE NO ACTION BY CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, IN
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT REP
HAS CONSISTENTLY WORKED CLOSELY WITH CUBAN REPRESENTA-
TIVE ON ALL ISSUES IN OPPOSITION TO US POSITIONS

AND PARTICULARLY ON PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION ISSUE HAS ALSO WORKED CLOSELY WITH PANAMANIAN COMMUNIST WORKER AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

3. CONVERSATION BETWEEN HOROWITZ AND CASTELLANOS ON JUNE 14 WAS BRIEF EXCHANGE IN WHICH, IN RESPONSE TO CASTELLANOS COMMENT ON PROGRESS IN CONFERENCE, HOROWITZ EXPRESSED CHAGRIN AT DIFFERENT POSTURE BEING TAKEN BY THE VENEZUELANS IN CONFERENCE FROM THAT WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN DURING HIS CARACAS VISIT. HE COMMENTED THAT GENERAL DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLES HAD LITTLE MEANING UNLESS POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES ARE TAKEN ON SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT VENEZUELA WOULD NOT BE AMONG THOSE WHICH, BECAUSE OF POSITIONS TAKEN IN THE CONFERENCE, CONTRIBUTE NEGATIVELY TO THE US CONSIDERATION OF ITS CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN ILO. THAT HOROWITZ POSITION MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED AS "HARD" PERHAPS IS UNDERSTANDABLE FROM THE PROSPECTIVE OF VENEZUELA BUT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE EXCHANGE WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY CHARACTERIZING IT AS "OFFENSIVE TO VENEZUELAN PEOPLE AND NATION."
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